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CO-HOSTS USA IN SUPER 8s AFTER WASHOUT, PAKISTAN OUT OF WC

2009 World T20 champs crashed out after the game between USA and Ireland was abandoned. With an extra point, USA took unassailable lead

APT END TO A DISAPPOINTING CAMPAIGN

Unfortunately for Pakistan, this campaign finished even before it started. At some level, it's apt. The 2022 finalists tried and failed to evolve in this format and can now do a major squad surgery. In the short-term, both their defeats, one to USA and the other to India, will rankle because they lost from winning positions. They will play Ireland in the last game on Sunday

INDIA'S MATCH COULD ALSO BE RAINED OUT

- With more rain predicted over the next 16 hours, India's game against Canada could also be a washout. This has been a very wet start to the Hurricane Season in Florida | **P15**
- The identities of at least two of India's opponents in the Super 8s are already known. They will face Afghanistan and Australia

THIS IS USA'S FIRST WORLD CUP APPEARANCE

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Talks, diplomacy path for Ukraine peace, says Modi

PM holds talks with Zelenskyy; also invites Pope Francis to India

AGENCIES

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with world leaders at Italy's Apulia on the sidelines of the G7 summit, but what caught the eye were his interactions with US President Joe Biden, Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Pope Francis.

"It's always a pleasure to meet @POTUS @JoeBiden. India and USA will keep working together to further global good," Modi said in a post on X along with photos of their interaction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embraces Pope Francis at Italy's Apulia on Friday | x

In his talks with Zelenskyy, Modi assured him that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution to the Ukraine war, adding the way to peace is through "dialogue and diplomacy". He said India believes in a human-centric approach to the conflict.

Modi described the meeting as very productive and said India is eager to further cement bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra were part of Modi's delegation at the talks.

The Ukranian readout said, "The president spoke about the functioning of the Black Sea transport corridor, which makes it possible to increase exports of sunflower oil to India and turnover of other categories of goods."

Later in the day, Modi met Pope Francis with a warm embrace at the Outreach session of the G7 Summit and invited him to visit India. "Met Pope Francis on the sidelines of the @G7 Summit. I admire his commitment to serve people and make our planet better. Also invited him to visit India," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi was seen in a lighthearted exchange with the 87-year-old head of the worldwide Catholic Church.

He also held talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who is hosting the G7 Summit, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron. Modi also met Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau.

Delimitation hurdle for women quota

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH its Southern allies in play, the BJP-led NDA government may face roadblocks in implementing the Women's Reservation Bill, which hinges on Census and delimitation.

With the TDP, the main ally of the NDA, calling for consensus on delimitation, the BJP may face huge challenges in implementing the bill passed during Modi 2.0. The 33% quota for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will come into force after delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, scheduled for 2026.

Several Opposition parties from the South have raised concerns that the delimitation on the basis of population would lead to the states losing out in representation as they were successful in controlling population. To undertake the delimitation, the government must conduct the decadal Census, which has been indefinitely postponed since 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking to *TNIE*, senior Congress leader MP Manickam Tagore said the linkage with delimitation could delay the implementation of women's reservation, adding the BJP is planning it for 2034. "The entire Opposition voted for the passage of the bill and we want it to be immediately implemented. But the government's real intention is to delay it," he said.

A TDP leader, on the condition of anonymity, told this paper that the party will not support delimitation as the state will lose Lok Sabha seats.

Echoing the view, noted economist and former chief statistician Pronab Sen told this paper that the women's quota will get stuck because delimitation and census have been written into the bill. "Why should the implementation of the Women's bill be connected to delimitation? The government will face opposition from Southern states as well as from Maharashtra and Gujarat," said Sen, adding it can delink quota from the delimitation provision by amending the bill.

'Heavens won't fall in 4-5 days': HC directs CID not to arrest, detain BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) not to arrest or detain former chief minister and senior BJP leader **BS Yediyurappa** in the POCSO case. The court, however, directed Yediyurappa to appear before the CID officers on June 17.

Orally observing that the manner in which CID is conducting the probe raises doubts, the court said if the accused is an unscrupulous person, he would not have appeared before the investigating officers in response to the first notice. What heavens are going to fall down in 4 to 5 days? The former CM himself has stated in his reply to the second notice that he will appear before the CID on June 17, the court said and questioned the Advocate General (AG) what will happen to a layman if a former CM is treated in such a manner.

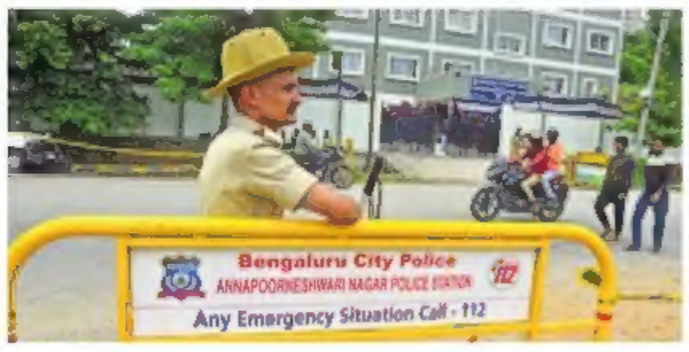
Keeping on hold the coercive proceedings of arrest or detention in the case, Justice Krishna S Dixit passed the interim order, directing Yediyurappa to appear before the CID on June 17 as stated in his reply to the second notice.

The CID is probing the case registered by Sadashivanagar police under Section 8 of the POCSO Act and Section 354A of the IPC based on a complaint filed on March 14, 2024, by the mother of a 17-year-old girl alleging that Yediyurappa sexually assaulted her daughter on February 2, 2024, at his Dollars Colony residence in Bengaluru. P4

Chandrayaan-1

DIRECTOR SRINIVAS HEGDE PASSES AWAY AT 71

The former Isro scientist was the mission head of India's first lunar mission that discovered water molecules on Moon. The 71-year-old was admitted in hospital after a heart attack | P5



A constable keeps watch in front of Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station, where actor Darshan and his associates are held, on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

Cops building strong case against Darshan, others

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

UNDER the supervision of DCP (West) S Girish and guidance of Additional Commissioner of Police Satheesh Kumar, the Vijaynagar sub-division police are building a watertight case against actor Darshan and other accused in the Renukaswamy abduction and murder case.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda is regularly monitoring the investigations on the instructions from Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara.

On Friday, Dayananda visited the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station where the accused are being interrogated. He has instructed the investigating officers to build a strong case, giving no scope for the accused to defend themselves during the trial.

With only three days of police custody of the accused left, the officers are grilling the accused round-the-clock, giving them little time to rest. Darshan is said to have been a hard nut to crack. He claims that he knows nothing about the murder, according to sources.

CONTINUED ON: P3

CBI probe: SC notice to NTA, Centre

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Centre on a plea seeking CBI investigation into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the NEET-UG exam held across the country on May 5 this year.

A two-judge vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta sought the responses within two weeks and tagged the cases with other petitions raising similar issues. The batch of pleas will now be heard on July 8, when the top court will start functioning after the summer vacation.

The development comes a day after the NTA and the Centre told the SC that the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates in the NEET-UG exam will be cancelled. They will have the option to either take a re-test on June 23 or forgo the compensatory marks awarded for the loss of time, the court was told. The petitioners alleged cheating happened in the medical entrance exam. "Cheating in entrance exams undermines the principles of meritocracy and equal opportunities which are essential for fostering social mobility and ensuring fairness in society," the plea said. Responding to the submission for ordering a CBI probe, the bench said the reply of the NTA was necessary before an order could be passed. As many as 67 students had scored a perfect 720 in the test in which 24 lakh students appeared, with six from a centre in Faridabad, raising suspicions about irregularities.

EXPRESS READ

LG okays prosecution of Arundhati under UAPA

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena has accorded sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event here in 2010, Raj Niwas officials said on Friday | P10

'300 women scientists to get research grants'

NEW DELHI: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said 300 women scientists were set to get research grants for three years under the CSIR- ASPIRE scheme. Chairing a meeting of the Department of Scientific and Industrial research, Singh said innovations should be to empower citizens.

Woman files cheating case against MoS Somanna's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 40-year-old woman filed a cheating and assault case against Dr BS Arun Somanna, son of Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna and two others at Sanjay Nagar police station on Wednesday.

The police have registered an FIR on a direction from the 37th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court, where the woman filed a private complaint. The complainant, Trupthi, a resident of Sanjay Nagar, stated that she and her husband Madhwaraj own an event management company. Arun met her husband at a government function in 2013 and asked him to organise a function to celebrate his daughter's birthday in 2017. Arun allegedly proposed to start a venture in partnership with Madhwaraj and in 2019, they started a company, Neighbourhood.

When the company started incurring losses, Arun blamed Madhwaraj for the losses. He later forced Madhwaraj to resign and reduced his share in the company. When the complainant and her husband questioned Arun, the latter allegedly threatened them. Arun even threatened to kidnap Madhwaraj's children and abused him in filthy language. He also allegedly assaulted Madhwaraj with a stick at his office, Trupthi stated in her complaint. The complainant alleged that Arun started insisting Madhwaraj to pay him money. Unable to bear the harassment, Madhwaraj paid Rs 86 lakh. Arun also allegedly forced him to sign a Rs 65-lakh loan agreement. As the harassment continued, Madhwaraj tried to end his life.

Based on the complaint, the police have booked Arun, Jeevan Kumar of Dasarahalli and Pramod Rao of Hebbal.

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